REMARKS

The Examiner's comments in the outstanding Office Action have been carefully considered and responded to in the above-amended claim program. For the following reasons the pending claims are all allowable over the prior art of record alone or in combination.

Embodiments of the claimed invention provide path indicating indicia along one or more egress paths from an area or region where the path can be as safely followed. Areas where the path may not be safe for traversing do not exhibit the path indicating indicia which are suppressed. Suppression is implemented using detectors separate from but coupled to the path indicating output device or devices. Separate ambient condition detectors provide numerous advantages in that they can be spaced along the path strategically and then one or more of them coupled to selected of the output indicating devices.

The disclosure of Ellul Jr. et al. is quite unlike the claimed structures and methods. In Ellul alarm indicating signals are coupled to output devices 14 which include in a common housing a temperature sensor 60. Thus, each output device reflects a temperature condition immediately at the device. The location of the temperature sensor 60 within the housing of the device 14 results in a device which is fundamentally different from the devices and methods as claimed. In addition Ellul teaches the use of a single alarm unit 14 per exit:

> "It will be understood that multiple alarms 14 may be employed in a single room, each identifying a different exit from the room." (Col. 6, lns 19-21, emphasis ours)

Thus, Ellul focuses on the immediancy of each of the output units 14 to or at an exit. This is quite unlike the claimed structures and methods.

Crandall Jr. et al. also cited by the Examiner in support of the outstanding rejections not only does not make up for the deficiencies in Ellul it reflects a teaching

away from the claimed structures and methods. In Crandall et al. a plurality of sensors 12 feeds information to a central processor 14. The central processor 14 determines paths of travel based on the results of the sensors 12. The output devices therein communicate only with central processor 14. The sensors 12 are isolated from the output devices by processor 14. The centralized architecture of Crandall Jr. et al. where processor 14 alone receives information from sensors 12 is structurally and methodologically quite different and unlike the claimed structures and methods. Nothing in Ellul Jr. or Crandall Jr. alone or in combination provides a teaching, suggestion or motivation to modify Ellul Jr. so as to make any of the pending claims obvious.

For at least the above reasons the pending claims are allowable. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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